

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

704 KAR 3:530, Mathematics Achievement Fund (Final)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.840, 158.842, 158.844, 164.525; 704 KAR 3:530

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education give final approval to 704 KAR 3:530, Mathematics Achievement Fund?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. At the August 2005 Kentucky Board of Education meeting, the Board discussed an implementation plan and timeline on the comprehensive mathematics initiative created under House Bill 93 during the 2005 legislative session. Part of this initiative includes the Mathematics Achievement Fund to provide diagnostic assessment and intervention services to students to help them reach proficiency in mathematics. In order to implement this program, a new regulation needs to be promulgated to meet the intent of the Mathematics Achievement Fund program.

The Board reviewed a draft of the regulation at its February meeting. Since that time, the Council on Postsecondary Education has named Northern Kentucky University as the site of the Center for Mathematics Achievement. The Center is charged and funded to provide the training for the teachers involved in the mathematics intervention program.

A Committee for Mathematics Achievement was created under KRS 158.842. Part of the Committee's legislative charge is to make recommendations to the Kentucky Board of Education relating to the grants to local districts for the mathematics intervention program. This regulation includes the committee's recommendations. As the committee's recommendations were already incorporated into the draft reviewed by the Board in February, the attached regulation has no significant changes from that version.

Upon approval of this regulation, a Request for Application will be released inviting districts to apply for these funds. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is requesting final approval of the regulation and requests the Board's advice on the amount of funds to be provided to each school so that the application process may begin. A recommendation follows.

Policy Issues and Options

The regulation calls upon the Board to provide guidance to the Kentucky Department of Education relative to the award size of the grants. Staff recommends an amount of up to \$70,000

per school, which aligns with the funding provided to schools participating in the similar reading intervention grant program, Read to Achieve. With a total of \$3 million allocated, this would allow approximately 40 schools to participate. Staff worked with the Committee on Mathematics Achievement to develop this regulation to begin the implementation of the Mathematics Achievement Fund. The Committee also agrees with the proposed \$70,000 allotment per school.

As noted above, since policy recommendations from the Committee for Mathematics Achievement were included in the version of the regulation reviewed by the Board in February, there are no significant revisions in the attached regulation.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends the Board give final approval to the regulation and suggests establishment of a grant award size of up to \$70,000 per school, which would be similar to what was done in reading.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency

Providing diagnostic and intervention for students in the primary program struggling with mathematics will lead to increased student achievement in mathematics.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses

The primary group consulted in the formulation of the regulation was the Committee for Mathematics Achievement. The committee provided guidance on the different elements of the regulation as provided for in the statutes. The statute calls upon the Center for Mathematics to play a key role in implementation by providing the training for the teachers selected to provide the mathematics intervention. Input from the Local Superintendents Advisory Council and the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council will be provided in writing from those groups prior to the April meeting.

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